



# NEWS RELEASE

## COUNCILMEMBER MARTI EMERALD

### Seventh District

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**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Geni Cavitt  
**Phone:** 619-236-6677  
**E-mail:** [gcavitt@san-diego.gov](mailto:gcavitt@san-diego.gov)

### **Emerald Scores Victory in Pedicab Safety Campaign**

The details of the new pedicab legislation (AB 2294) were presented to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee (PS&NS) on Wednesday. The new law gives San Diego the authority to require all pedicab drivers to have a valid California Driver's License.

Councilmember Marti Emerald, who chairs the PS&NS Committee, sponsored the overhaul of San Diego's pedicab ordinance last year and worked with the City's Intergovernmental Relations Department and the City Attorney's Office to provide the foundation for the state legislation. San Diego Assembly Members Marty Block and Nathan Fletcher sponsored the bill to change the California Vehicle Code.

In an effort to further protect the public after a tourist was killed in a fatal fall from a pedicab in July 2009, the new law would require pedicab drivers to have a basic understanding of driver safety, traffic regulations, and a valid California Driver's License.

"Pedicabs are an important part of the tourism industry in San Diego; sometimes they are the first ambassadors that tourists meet in our city and safe passage is essential. When the new law goes into effect on January 1, 2011, this City takes a giant step toward better public safety."

Emerald's leadership has been instrumental in getting the new law passed and has the support of the other PS&NS Committee members in getting the driver's license requirement added to the current ordinance.

An amendment to the current pedicab ordinance requiring the CA Driver's License will be on the November 17, 2010 agenda of the Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee.

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